



SHARPE JAMES
MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

June 24, 2002

Mr. Ras Baraka
808 South 10th Street
Newark, New Jersey 07108

Dear Mr. Baraka:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding our prior discussion about the position of Deputy Mayor. Historically, the position of Deputy Mayor has carried certain privileges, office space and staff. Each Deputy Mayor has an administrative secretary assigned to him or her, with the full support of the Office of the Mayor to assist as needed. The administrative secretary's salary is in accordance with Civil Service guidelines and is in line with your request.

More importantly, however, before we explore the accoutrements of the office, that is office space, staffing, support services and a municipal vehicle. It is equally important that we come to terms with an agreed upon working relationship that encompasses the scope of work and your individual philosophy versus its compatibility with the Office of the Mayor's philosophy.

Do you sincerely want to work within a structured environment requiring cooperation, consensus building and team effort?

As I heretofore suggested to you, your willingness to work within certain parameters, combined with your strong showing in the recent 2002 municipal, elections will position you to be a winner in 2006. With a minimum of effort, by avoiding scandal and non-productive issues, you will win. Clearly, you have outstanding professional credentials as an educator and vice principal. Combined with being a high profile young man and community activist, these are all viable vehicles to transport you to elective office.

Thus, even though your salary would be a token necessity (\$1.00 annually) to obtain municipal status, the office of Deputy Mayor itself would warrant your clear understanding of the public positions and policies of the Office of the Mayor. As an insider, you must work for the rights of all Newarkers using required diplomacy. The position of Deputy Mayor is not a confrontational one. Not one of individual beliefs and singular positions.

For example, as an outsider, your commendable demonstration against NJIT's appointment of a new president with planned demonstrations, protests, marches, confrontations and the use of whatever means necessary might bring about desired results. Yet, as Deputy Mayor representing the Office of the Mayor, these tactics would be unacceptable. Instead, you might be asked to participate in inside meetings and discussions; to show respect for all sides and to exercise a diplomatic approach to achieve the same results.

Therefore, an honest question is can Ras Baraka change his methods to reflect the diplomacy inherent and expected by a Deputy Mayor? We do not want to have a misunderstanding about such a visible position as Deputy Mayor. We both are aware of the charges and ugly events after you successfully beat an incumbent in the West, Central and South Wards in the May 11th municipal election.

Thus having placed these various caveats before you, I would like you to call my executive secretary, Deborah Moore at (973) 733-4312 to schedule a meeting during which we can explore these issues honestly and openly prior to any decision-making. Let's make the right decision at this time—one that is best for us both. One that will help make you a clear winner in 2006.

Again, thank you for your valued interest in Newark Municipal Government.

All the best!

Sincerely yours,

Sharpe James
Mayor